

February 2016

GARNER

UPDATE

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IN THIS EDITION



Critically acclaimed gospel group plays GPAC Feb. 21. See page 3.



Town Hall staff have moved to new locations. Find out who's gone where. See page 4.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

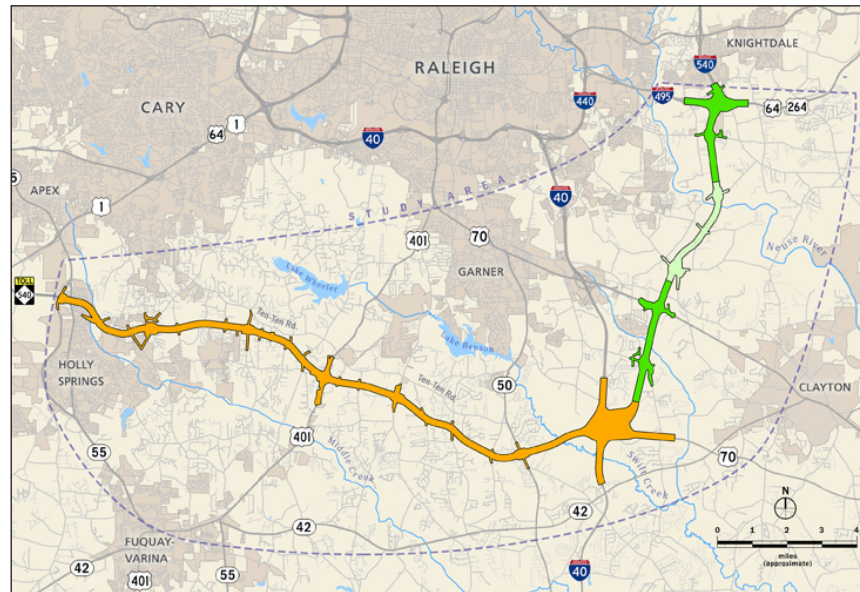
Feb. 23: Town Council work session (6 p.m., police station, 912 7th Ave.)

March 7: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m., police station, 912 7th Ave.)

Town Council, Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment meetings are held in the training room in the new police station at 912 7th Ave. while the new Town Hall is under construction. The Town Council's regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



/townofgarner



NCDOT on Feb. 3 announced its selection of the orange route as its preferred alternative for the southeast extension of the 540 Triangle Expressway.

(NOT) SEEING RED

NCDOT Selects Orange as Preferred Route

NCDOT earlier this month recommended that the southeast extension of the 540 Triangle Expressway be built along the so-called orange route (and connecting to green and mint).

"The important thing is this is just a recommendation," said Eric Midkiff, NCDOT's 540 project manager.

NCDOT said federal and state agency partners will now provide formal comments about the recommendation. The department will then review the agency comments and make any necessary changes before announcing the official preferred

alternative this spring.

The southeast extension will extend the Triangle Expressway from the N.C. 55 Bypass in Apex to the U.S. 64/U.S. 264 Bypass in Knightdale, completing the 540 Outer Loop around the greater Raleigh area.

Officials from Garner and other Wake County municipalities had urged NCDOT to select the orange route, which denotes a protected corridor that was originally set aside for the 540 project over 20 years ago. Another route, designated in red on

please see 540, page 2



To get the latest news from the Town, follow us on Twitter (@TownofGarner).



A Message from the Mayor



You can watch the mayor's 2016 State of the Town address at youtube.com/townofgarner.

It was certainly great to hear NCDOT announce earlier this month that its preferred route for the southeast extension of the 540 Triangle Expressway included orange not red.



That does not completely close out this saga, but it does appear that Garner is in the clear and that we are ready to grow.

Speaking of growth, the Town

Council and I recently had our annual planning retreat. Over the course of two days, we heard presentations from staff on a variety of topics and offered direction on matters that will shape Garner's growth and development for many years to come. As a next step, staff will develop a strategic plan and present it in a few months.

You can feel confident in the fact that Garner has a talented, enthusiastic and dedicated staff—and a wise Town Council committed to growth that is appropriate to Garner. You will see the fruits of the Town's

planning in the years to come. We intend to continue our commitment to orderly growth, fiscal responsiveness, efficient and timely delivery of services and a great quality of life.

While I have your attention, I want to urge you to come out to Garner Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m. to see The Jones Family Singers, a truly spectacular gospel group that we are lucky to be able to host. Hope to see you at that show.

Ronnie S. Williams

Ronnie S. Williams

540

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NCDOT maps, would cut through the middle of Garner.

Town officials attended a December public hearing about the southeast extension of 540 and reiterated that the Town supported completion of the outer loop. In addition to pointing out the many negative impacts that the red route would have, officials noted that the Town has historically used the protected orange corridor to plan for existing and future development inside Garner town limits.

The southeast extension is not projected to be built out until the 2020-2024 timeframe. In justifying construction of the southeast extension, NCDOT argues that, "[i]n addition to connecting several towns and cities, the project is anticipated to ease congestion on area roadways, including I-440, I-40, N.C. 42, N.C. 55 and Ten Ten Road. For more information and updates, please visit ncdot.gov/complete540.



GPD Establishes Safe Exchange Spot

The Garner Police Department has created a safe exchange zone in the parking lot in front of the new police station at 912 7th Ave. The spot offers citizens a place to meet up to complete transactions initiated on the internet (e.g. Craigslist). As the sign indicates, the zone is under round-the-clock video surveillance. No weapons are allowed in the zone. For more information, contact the Police Department at (919) 772-8810.



Sign Up Now for Citizens Academies

The Town is looking for participants in two upcoming citizens academies:

Garner 101 starts March 3 and consists of nine weekly classes plus a graduation dinner and ceremony. Classes are on Thursday evenings and generally run 6:30 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. Participants hear presentations both from Town departments and service partners including the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, the Garner Police Department, Raleigh Public Utilities and Garner Volunteer Fire-Rescue. Classes include facility tours and displays. Enrollment is free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Neighborhood Improvement Manager Reginald Buie at (919) 773-4446 or at rbuie@garnernc.gov for class information or to enroll.

The Garner Police Department is also starting a new, free citizens police academy March 8 and running through May 10. Instructors are Garner police officers who will teach a variety of topics. Interested persons should apply as soon as possible by contacting Sgt. Sophia Sandlin at (919) 772-8810, ext. 5164, or at ssandlin@garnernc.gov.

Showcase of Talent Shows Set for Feb. 27

Garner's annual Showcase of Talent comes to Garner Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Feb. 27 with free shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. As usual, there will be a wide range of musical, dance and other talent, with folks from all walks of life in the community taking part in this popular town event.



Critically Acclaimed Gospel Group to Play GPAC Feb. 21

The Jones Family Singers will perform at Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road) on **Sunday, Feb. 21** at 4 p.m. as part of the It's Showtime series.

The gospel group—which has strong elements of vintage soul and R&B—consists of five sisters, two brothers and their father, Bishop Fred A. Jones Sr. The group was a huge hit at the Lincoln Center last summer and showcased at New York City's globalFEST and The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The Jones Family Singers have crisscrossed the globe with appearances at South by Southwest (Austin, Texas) and the Newport

Folk Festival as well as a recent tour of Russia.

Tickets for The Jones Family Singers start at only \$20 and can be purchased at garnerperformingartscenter.com, by calling (919) 661-4602 or by going in person to the GPAC box office at 742 W. Garner Road Monday through Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. **Tickets are \$15 apiece for groups of 15 or more.**

For more information about The Jones Family Singers, including details about a documentary on the group, please visit thejonesfamilyingers.com.



You can follow Garner PRCR on Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).



Garner Business Park First in Area to be AT&T 'Fiber Ready'

AT&T and representatives from Greenfield South Business Park and Garner Economic Development announced on Feb. 10 that Greenfield South had been designated AT&T Fiber Ready.

It is the first business park in the region to receive AT&T's Fiber Ready designation. The AT&T fiber network provides the bandwidth needed to support data-intensive services such as video and cloud services.



Read all of the Town's news releases at garnernc.gov.

Garner officials hailed the announcement. "We are pleased to have the first 'Fiber Ready' business park in the Triangle," Mayor Ronnie Williams said. "This designation is one more tool that the Town can use to continue to market our community as a place of choice for 21st-century businesses. Having access to high-speed, reliable internet is no longer a luxury of the few but a necessity for businesses large and small.

"Naming Greenfield South a 'Fiber Ready' park will serve to reassure companies looking to locate in Garner that their telecommunications needs will be met," Garner Economic Development Director Joseph Stallings said. "The partnerships that the Town of Garner shares with AT&T and all of the other service providers in our area are what helps our community be prepared to meet the current and future needs of businesses and residents."

For more information about economic development opportunities in Garner, please contact Joseph Stallings at (919) 773-4431 or by email at jstallings@garnernc.gov.

TOWN OF GARNER

BOND PROGRAM

We've Moved!

A new Town Hall is under construction at 900 7th Ave., so staff and meetings have temporarily relocated, as indicated below:

914 7th Ave.
Administration
Economic Development
Engineering
Finance (bill payments)
Human Resources

400 Aversboro Road
Inspections
Planning

912 7th Ave. (Police Station)
Town Council, Planning Commission
and Board of Adjustment meetings

Gibson Named Town Clerk

Stella Gibson was promoted last month to town clerk after having served as deputy town clerk and interim town clerk since December 2014. She succeeds Judy Bass, who retired in November.

Gibson was selected from among 199 applicants for the position. She participated in a one-day assessment center along with other finalists for the position.



Gibson has 22 years of local government experience. She previously worked for the Town of Clayton, the City of St. Cloud, Fla., and Osceola County, Fla. She also has extensive experience in the private sector. Gibson is a certified public manager (level

1 and 2); she earned the certification from the University of Central Florida.

"Stella has performed admirably and has become an integral part of our team," Interim Town Manager Rodney Dickerson said in a statement announcing Gibson's promotion. "Stella's passion and capabilities were demonstrated during our selection process. Since the retirement of Judy Bass, Stella has served as interim town clerk and has kept things running smoothly."

Among her many other duties, Gibson is now in the process of hiring a new deputy town clerk.

To reach Gibson, please call (919) 773-4406 or email sgibson@garnernc.gov.